

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 4-6, and 10, and amend Claims 2, 3, and 7-9 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus ~~according to Claim 1,~~ further comprising:

a plurality of image pickup areas formed on a same semiconductor chip and arranged in horizontal and vertical directions, each image pickup area having a plurality of pixels arranged in the horizontal and vertical directions;

a plurality of vertical scanning circuits adapted to sequentially scan pixels in the vertical direction of a plurality of image pickup areas in the vertical direction independently from each other;

a plurality of lenses, at least one of which is provided in each of said plurality of image pickup areas, adapted to focus light to form an image on said image pickup areas;

a driving circuit adapted to drive said plurality of vertical scanning circuits so that at least a part of a scanning period of each of said plurality of vertical scanning circuits overlaps with each other; and

a common output line for sequentially outputting signals from said plurality of image pickup areas that are arranged in the horizontal and the vertical directions and a horizontal scanning circuit provided in common for the plurality of image

pickup areas in the vertical direction, adapted to read out signals to said common output ~~lines~~ line.

3. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein said driving circuit drives said plurality of scanning circuits so that said plurality of scanning circuits scan one line of pixels included in a first image pickup area that is one of the plurality of image pickup areas arranged in the vertical direction, and then scan one line of pixels included in a second image pickup area that is one of the plurality of image pickup areas arranged in the vertical direction, without scanning a plurality of lines[[,]] which are not yet scanned ~~yet, included~~ in said first image pickup area.

4.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of image pickup areas formed on a same semiconductor chip and arranged in ~~the~~ horizontal and ~~the~~ vertical directions, each image pickup area having a plurality of pixels arranged in the horizontal and ~~the~~ vertical directions and having a distance between adjacent image pickup areas ~~being~~ which is larger than a distance between pixels in a same image pickup area;

a plurality of vertical scanning circuits adapted to sequentially scan pixels in the vertical direction ~~to scan~~ of a plurality of image pickup areas in the vertical direction independently from each other;

a common output line for sequentially outputting signals from said plurality of image pickup areas that are arranged in the horizontal and ~~the~~ vertical directions; and

a horizontal scanning circuit provided in common for the plurality of image pickup areas in the vertical direction, adapted to read out signals to said common output ~~lines~~ line.

8. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 7,

wherein said driving circuit drives said plurality of scanning circuits so that said plurality of scanning circuits scan one line of pixels included in a first image pickup area that is one of the plurality of image pickup areas arranged in the vertical direction, and then scan one line of pixels included in a second image pickup area that is one of the plurality of image pickup areas arranged in the vertical direction, without scanning a plurality of lines, which are not yet scanned ~~yet, included~~ in said first image pickup area.

9. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 7,

wherein said plurality of vertical scanning ~~circuit is~~ circuits are provided adjacent to at least one side of each of said plurality of image pickup areas.

10. (Cancelled)